

Causes of death in the EU28 in 2011

1 in 4 deaths caused by cancer in the EU28

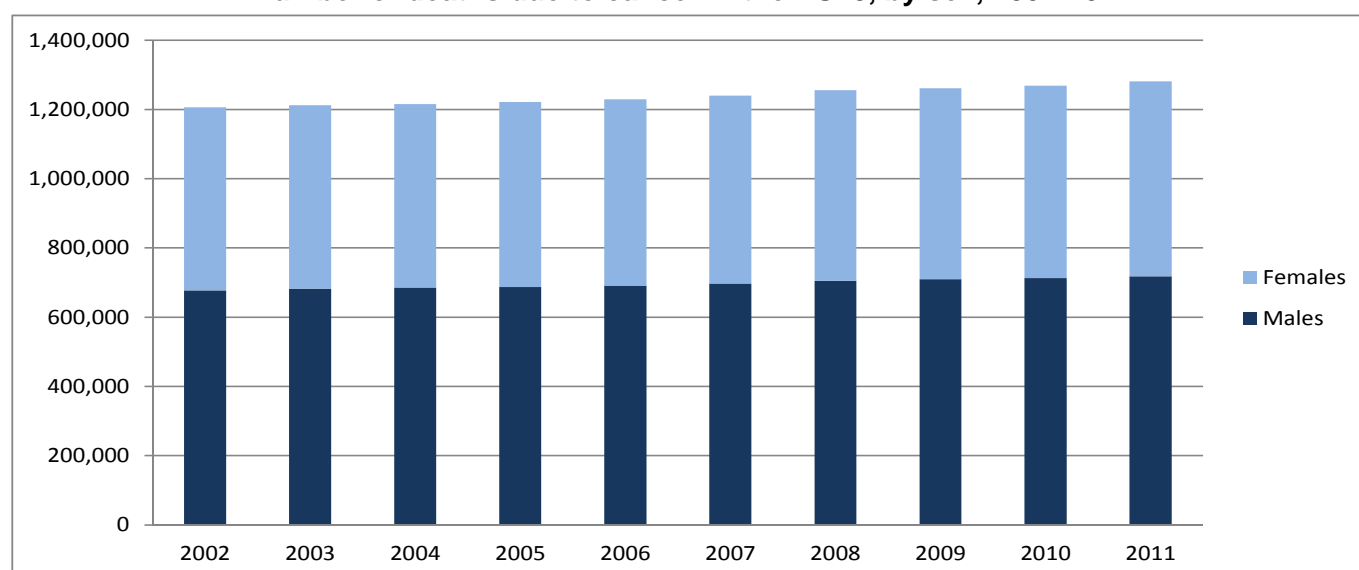
Lung cancer main fatal cancer

In the **EU28** in 2011, cancer was the cause of death¹ for 1.281 million persons, responsible for more than a quarter of all deaths (26.3%). Over the past ten years, while the total number of deaths slightly decreased (-0.5%), the number of deaths due to cancer increased by 6.3% (from 1.206 million in 2002 to 1.281 million in 2011), at a slightly higher pace for females (+6.6%) than for males (+6.0%). However, the number of deaths due to cancer remained higher in 2011 among the male population (718 000 deaths due to cancer) than among the female population (563 000). In 2011, cancer represented 37.1% of all causes of death for the **EU28** population aged less than 65, while this level was only 23.8% for the older population (those aged 65 years and over).

Leading to the death of over 266 000 persons (or 20.8% of all deaths due to cancer), lung cancer was the main type of fatal cancer in the **EU28** in 2011, followed by colorectal cancer (152 000 or 11.9%), breast cancer (93 000 or 7.2%), pancreas cancer (78 000 or 6.1%) and prostate cancer² (73 000 or 10.2% of all fatal cancers for the male population only).

This information is published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Number of deaths due to cancer in the EU28, by sex, 2002-2011



Deaths due to cancer in the EU28, by main type of cancer and sex, 2002 and 2011
(in thousands)

| | All cancer | | Lung cancer | | Colorectal cancer | | Breast cancer | | Pancreas cancer | | Prostate cancer | |
|---------------------|------------|---------|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 |
| Total | 1 205.7 | 1 281.2 | : | 266.3 | 143.3 | 152.2 | 91.7 | 92.7 | 62.3 | 78.1 | - | - |
| Men, total | 677.4 | 717.9 | : | 186.5 | 75.2 | 82.7 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 31.2 | 39.2 | 67.5 | 72.9 |
| Women, total | 528.3 | 563.2 | : | 79.8 | 68.1 | 69.5 | 90.6 | 91.8 | 31.1 | 38.9 | - | - |

: Not available - not applicable

Cancer: responsible for nearly 40% of deaths among those aged less than 65, and under 25% amongst those aged 65 and over

Among the total population, cancer was in 2011 the cause of more than 30% of deaths in the **Netherlands** (31.9%), **Slovenia** (31.3%) and **Ireland** (30.5%), while it represented less than a fifth of all causes of death in **Bulgaria** (15.6%), **Romania** (19.1%) and **Lithuania** (19.9%). At least a quarter of deaths were due to cancer in seventeen Member States in 2011.

Looking at age groups, 345 000 persons aged less than 65 died in 2011 in the **EU28** because of cancer, meaning that cancers represented more than a third (37.1%) of all causes of death for this age group. Among Member States, death due to cancer for people aged less than 65 accounted for more than 40% of all causes of death in the **Netherlands** (48.0%), **Italy** (45.2%), **Spain** (43.9%) and **Slovenia** (40.9%), but less than 30% in **Lithuania** (23.2%), **Latvia** (24.2%), **Estonia** (26.3%), **Bulgaria** (26.7%) and **Finland** (28.4%).

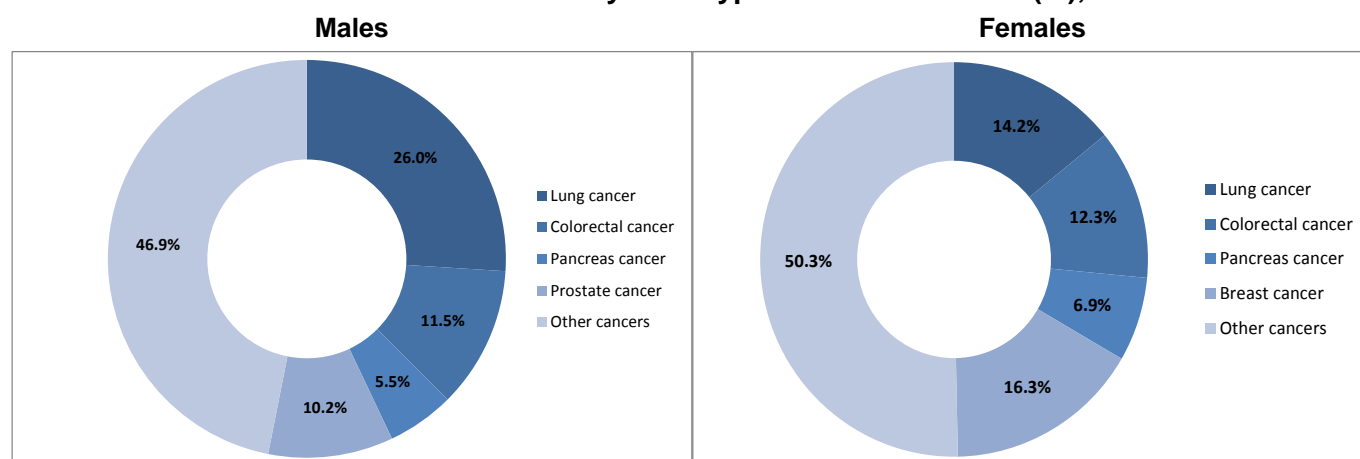
For the population aged 65 and over, cancer represented almost a quarter (23.8% or 936 000 persons) of all causes of deaths in the **EU28** in 2011, with the highest shares registered in **Slovenia** (28.8%), **Ireland** (28.4%), the **Netherlands** (28.3%), **Denmark** (27.6%) and the **United Kingdom** (27.2%), and the lowest in **Bulgaria** (12.3%) and **Romania** (15.2%).

Deaths due to cancer in the EU28 Member States, by age group, 2011
(absolute numbers & shares in total causes of death)

| | Deaths due to cancer total population | | Deaths due to cancer population aged less than 65 | | Deaths due to cancer population aged 65 and over | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | Absolute number | Share in all causes of death (%) | Absolute number | Share in all causes of death (%) | Absolute number | Share in all causes of death (%) |
| EU28 | 1 281 153 | 26.3 | 345 033 | 37.1 | 936 114 | 23.8 |
| Belgium | 27 639 | 26.5 | 7 119 | 37.0 | 20 520 | 24.1 |
| Bulgaria | 16 822 | 15.6 | 6 593 | 26.7 | 10 229 | 12.3 |
| Czech Rep. | 27 244 | 25.4 | 8 538 | 34.5 | 18 706 | 22.7 |
| Denmark | 15 481 | 29.6 | 3 689 | 38.1 | 11 792 | 27.6 |
| Germany | 221 693 | 26.0 | 52 887 | 38.1 | 168 806 | 23.6 |
| Estonia | 3 629 | 23.8 | 1 009 | 26.3 | 2 620 | 23.0 |
| Ireland | 8 667 | 30.5 | 2 352 | 37.8 | 6 315 | 28.4 |
| Greece | 27 342 | 24.6 | 6 488 | 37.6 | 20 854 | 22.2 |
| Spain | 105 432 | 27.2 | 27 140 | 43.9 | 78 292 | 24.0 |
| France | 155 160 | 28.4 | 44 562 | 39.8 | 110 598 | 25.4 |
| Croatia | 13 701 | 26.6 | 4 220 | 39.9 | 9 481 | 23.2 |
| Italy | 167 883 | 28.3 | 34 828 | 45.2 | 133 054 | 25.7 |
| Cyprus | 1 151 | 21.3 | 326 | 34.0 | 825 | 18.6 |
| Latvia | 5 890 | 20.6 | 1 848 | 24.2 | 4 042 | 19.3 |
| Lithuania | 8 070 | 19.9 | 2 634 | 23.2 | 5 436 | 18.7 |
| Luxembourg | 1 060 | 27.8 | 296 | 38.0 | 764 | 25.1 |
| Hungary | 32 670 | 25.4 | 12 624 | 36.5 | 20 046 | 21.3 |
| Malta | 875 | 26.4 | 247 | 39.1 | 628 | 23.4 |
| Netherlands | 43 017 | 31.9 | 11 763 | 48.0 | 31 249 | 28.3 |
| Austria | 20 104 | 26.4 | 5 128 | 38.1 | 14 976 | 23.9 |
| Poland | 92 270 | 24.5 | 34 726 | 30.6 | 57 544 | 21.9 |
| Portugal | 25 590 | 24.8 | 7 098 | 38.9 | 18 492 | 21.8 |
| Romania | 47 980 | 19.1 | 19 591 | 30.0 | 28 389 | 15.2 |
| Slovenia | 5 865 | 31.3 | 1 592 | 40.9 | 4 273 | 28.8 |
| Slovakia | 12 917 | 25.1 | 4 869 | 33.4 | 8 048 | 21.8 |
| Finland | 11 580 | 23.0 | 2 879 | 28.4 | 8 701 | 21.6 |
| Sweden | 21 747 | 24.3 | 4 278 | 37.3 | 17 469 | 22.4 |
| United Kingdom | 159 674 | 29.0 | 35 709 | 37.9 | 123 965 | 27.2 |
| Norway | 10 839 | 26.2 | 2 493 | 37.2 | 8 346 | 24.1 |
| Switzerland | 16 736 | 26.7 | 3 995 | 40.5 | 12 741 | 24.1 |

Figures may not add up due to deaths of unknown age.

Fatal cancers in the EU28 by main type of cancer and sex (%), 2011



Lung cancer is the most common fatal cancer for males in the EU28 Breast cancer is the most common fatal cancer for females in the EU28

Highest proportion of both fatal lung cancer and colorectal cancer in Hungary

In all Member States, the most prevalent cancer leading to death in 2011 was lung cancer, except in **Portugal** where it was colorectal cancer.

The highest proportions of lung cancer among all deaths due to cancer were recorded in **Hungary** (26.1%), the **Netherlands** (24.6%), **Belgium** (24.5%) **Greece** and **Poland** (both 24.1%), and the lowest in **Portugal** (14.5%), **Sweden** (16.7%), **Latvia** (16.8%), **Lithuania** and **Slovakia** (both 17.1%). Compared with 2002, the proportions of lung cancer among all deaths due to cancer increased in fourteen Member States, decreased in ten and remained almost stable in **Slovenia** and **Finland**.

In 2011, the highest proportions of deaths due to colorectal cancer among all deaths due to cancer were registered in **Hungary** (15.5%), **Slovakia** (15.3%), **Portugal** (15.0%), **Croatia** (14.7%) and **Spain** (14.6%). On the opposite end of the scale, colorectal cancer represented less than 10% of all deaths due to cancer in **Cyprus** (7.9%), **Greece** (8.9%) and **Finland** (9.8%).

Highest proportion of fatal prostate cancer in the Nordic Member States

Prostate cancer represented in 2011 the fifth main type of fatal cancer in the EU28, with a 5.7% share in all deaths due to cancer. Prostate cancer however only affects men, for whom it caused 10.2% of all deaths due to cancer in 2011 in the **EU28**.

Among Member States, the highest shares were observed in the three Nordic Member States: **Sweden** (11.0% of deaths due to cancer in the total population, and 20.9% of all deaths due to cancer among the male population), **Denmark** (7.9% and 15.1%) and **Finland** (7.6% and 14.4%).

On the contrary, shares of less than 5% of all deaths due to cancer in the total population were recorded in **Hungary** (3.7% of deaths due to cancer in the total population, and 6.7% of all deaths due to cancer among the male population), **Malta** (4.0% and 7.4%), **Romania** (4.1% and 6.9%), **Poland** (4.4% and 7.9%), **Italy** (4.5% and 8.0%), **Luxembourg** (4.7% and 8.6%), the **Czech Republic** (4.8% and 8.7%) and **Slovakia** (4.9% and 8.4%).

Deaths due to cancer in the EU28 Member States, by main type of cancer, 2002 and 2011
(respective shares in total fatal cancer)

| | Lung cancer | | Colorectal cancer | | Breast cancer | | Pancreas cancer | | Prostate cancer* | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 | 2002 | 2011 |
| EU28 | : | 20.8 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 5.7 |
| Belgium** | 23.8 | 24.5 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 5.1 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Bulgaria | 19.0 | 19.9 | 13.9 | 13.9 | 7.0 | 7.8 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 4.8 | 5.3 |
| Czech Rep. | 19.4 | 20.6 | 15.5 | 13.6 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 4.9 | 4.8 |
| Denmark | 22.2 | 23.4 | 13.2 | 12.7 | 9.4 | 7.9 | 4.7 | 5.8 | 7.7 | 7.9 |
| Germany | : | 19.8 | 13.7 | 11.9 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 6.1 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 6.0 |
| Estonia | 20.0 | 17.9 | 12.0 | 11.9 | 7.6 | 7.1 | 5.3 | 7.1 | 5.2 | 6.1 |
| Ireland | 19.6 | 21.3 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 7.2 | 6.5 |
| Greece | 23.2 | 24.1 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.6 |
| Spain | 19.2 | 20.0 | 12.9 | 14.6 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 4.5 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 5.7 |
| France | 17.5 | 19.5 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 5.1 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 5.8 |
| Croatia | 21.5 | 20.8 | 12.9 | 14.7 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 5.5 |
| Italy | 20.6 | 20.1 | 11.0 | 11.4 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 6.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Cyprus** | 17.0 | 20.4 | 9.7 | 7.9 | 9.1 | 9.8 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 8.4 | 7.0 |
| Latvia | 18.8 | 16.8 | 11.2 | 11.7 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 5.1 | 6.3 |
| Lithuania | 18.0 | 17.1 | 11.1 | 11.8 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 6.3 |
| Luxembourg | 20.1 | 19.9 | 12.6 | 11.6 | 8.1 | 7.9 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 4.4 | 4.7 |
| Hungary | 24.0 | 26.1 | 14.5 | 15.5 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| Malta | 18.7 | 18.1 | 13.0 | 12.6 | 9.0 | 9.7 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 4.6 | 4.0 |
| Netherlands | : | 24.6 | 11.6 | 11.9 | 9.2 | 7.7 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 5.8 |
| Austria | 18.4 | 18.1 | 13.3 | 10.8 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 6.7 | 7.7 | 6.1 | 5.7 |
| Poland** | 24.5 | 24.1 | 10.3 | 11.6 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 4.4 |
| Portugal | 13.6 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 15.0 | 7.1 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 7.6 | 7.1 |
| Romania | 20.0 | 20.4 | 10.0 | 11.6 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 5.0 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 4.1 |
| Slovenia | 19.0 | 19.1 | 13.5 | 13.2 | 8.6 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.6 | 6.6 |
| Slovakia | 17.6 | 17.1 | 15.4 | 15.3 | 6.6 | 7.0 | 4.7 | 6.0 | 4.1 | 4.9 |
| Finland | 18.1 | 18.2 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 8.7 | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| Sweden | 14.7 | 16.7 | 12.0 | 12.4 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 11.0 | 11.0 |
| United Kingdom | 21.6 | 22.1 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 6.4 | 6.8 |
| Norway | 18.0 | 20.1 | 15.2 | 14.3 | 7.0 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 10.0 | 9.7 |
| Switzerland | 17.8 | 19.3 | 10.5 | 11.0 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 6.4 | 6.8 | 8.3 | 8.3 |

: not available

* Share of prostate cancer in cancer deaths of the total population i.e. males and females.

** Belgium: 2003 data instead of 2002; Cyprus: 2004 data instead of 2002. Poland: data on lung cancer for 2005 instead of 2002.

1. Eurostat collects statistics on the causes of death according to a list of 86 different causes of death. The list is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_NOM_DTL&StrNom=COD_2012&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntPcKey=&StrLayoutCode=HIERARCHIC
2. **Prostate cancer** only occurs for males.

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